



# Northwest Missouri School Counselors Association

*Counselors Helping Counselors*

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April 2018



## Presidential Perspective

**Dee Anna Kelley**  
NWMSCA President

### Be Careful

For as long as I can remember my dad has always told me to 'Be Careful'. As a little kid I remember hearing those words each time I went out for an adventure. Whether I was riding my pink Huffy Thunder bike, playing in my tree house or making mud pies. My dad would always remind me to 'Be Careful'. Back then I responded with a headshake and a smile. As the teen years rolled by, my reaction to my dad's famous words wasn't so nonchalant. If anything his words perturbed me a bit. I mean, come on I was 17 and I had my own car – a 79' Cutlass Supreme – and I knew everything. Looking back, it seems my dad told me to 'Be Careful' more often during the teen years. That only meant he received more eye rolls after his cautionary words were said. The adult years. Oh how they came with so much freedom and responsibility. Regardless of what I was doing or where I was going, my dad still would tell me to 'Be Careful'. Fast forward to today.

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## Save the Date! My Success Event 2018

by Megan McCamy, Career Counseling Chair

Mark your calendars now for the annual My Success Event! It will take place on October 17-18, 2018, at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Missouri. The event is coordinated annually by the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce and 2018 is the 12th year for My Success. Approximately 2,500 high school sophomores from 50 northwest Missouri high schools will have the opportunity to experience the event. There are volunteers from about 70 area businesses and 15 colleges/universities represented each year.

You will be receiving information to register in the future! Any questions should be directed to Diane Guthery (College and Career Advisor at Lafayette High School) or Mary Brown (Programs Coordinator at the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce). Contact information is below.

**Diane Guthery: [Diane.Guthery@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:Diane.Guthery@sjsd.k12.mo.us)  
or 816-671-4220**

**Mary Brown: [brown@saintjoseph.com](mailto:brown@saintjoseph.com) or 816-364-4102**

### 2018-2019 NWMSCA Officers:

President: Erin Hunter

President-Elect: Corrine Allee

Post-Secondary VP: Bev Schenkel

Secondary VP: Becky Whitmer

Middle Level VP: Mark Falke

Elementary VP: LeAnna Wilcox

Multi-Level VP: Amy Walker

Check out the NWMSCA website for the most updated information!

**[www.nwmsca.org](http://www.nwmsca.org)**

## Perspective . . .

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As a 40-something parent do you think my dad stopped reminding me to 'Be Careful'? Nope! Each time we talk on the phone or say goodbye to one another I still hear those familiar words. What is different nowadays, is that I now say it back to him. And here is why...

I was able to have a significant conversation with my dad recently. I simply asked him, "Why have you always told me to be careful?" His response shook my core. "Dee, as a parent you don't want your kids to hurt in anyway. Being safe is important. But mostly, I wanted you to be careful not to miss out on the best parts of life."

Wow. All these years I just thought my over protective dad was being ... well overprotective. When really his truth was encouraging me to enjoy life-every piece of it. He shared with me his hopes of me being careful not to miss out on the little things that make life so wonderful. My dad told me that he wanted me to always be careful and look out for others who may need help. He continued by letting me know that even though it bothered him to see me wreck by pink bike (I've never had good coordination!), get my share of speeding tickets (yes, even in an old-school Cutlass Supreme) or struggle with parenting a stubborn-head strong daughter (he said that sounded familiar to him for some reason) he knew he had to be careful himself and not solve all my problems for me. Instead, he wanted me to be careful and learn from all of those mishaps. Most importantly, my dad told me he hopes I am always careful in life to never take anything for granted. To enjoy and be grateful for each day that is given to me.

Everything my dad wants for me, I want for him too. Even though he is in his seventies, I love that I get to tell him to 'Be Careful' right after he tells me the same thing. As we wind down another school year I want to offer the same advice to you all:

Be Careful...

- Not to miss those special moments that our students thank us for helping them. Even if it looks like they don't hold a lot of gratitude.
- To always be mindful of why you're doing what you do.
- To take risks!
- Never to take a student's hug, fist bump or high-five for granted.
- That you make time to take care of YOU.
- And look closely at our student's odd ways of telling us they need us.
- To consistently clean your own windows before looking through them with judgmental eyes.
- To embrace failure because the struggle is real...IMPORTANT!
- That you are always taking your best shot and showing the world what you got!
- That everyone understands just how FEARLESS you really are!

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to lead a wonderful organization. I appreciate each and every member of the governing board and the members of NWMSCA. Here's to a great ending of the school year and a safe, memorable summer. Please, "Be Careful" everyone!



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Speaker Trenny Wilson

# NWMSCA Spring Meeting Re-cap

by Erin Hunter, President-Elect

On March 9th, NWMSCA held its' Spring meeting hosted by Missouri Western State University. Trenny Wilson, a Forensic Interviewer from Voices of Courage Child Advocacy Center, presented information on the Northwest Missouri Multidisciplinary Team. This team brings together all the individuals and organizations involved in any child abuse or sexual assault case within a nine county area. Trenny has brought school counselors to the table to help assist children during these times of crisis. The focus of this team is not on each individual agency but instead on what as a whole group we can do to assist these children.



Recognition of Past President, Becky Houtchens (right) with Dee Anna Kelley, President.



# 2018 Graduate Scholarship Winner

by Lori Cole, Scholarship Chair

Our 2018 NWMSCA Graduate Scholarship winner is Bridget Zabel!

Bridget is currently a Special Education teacher at DeKalb High School. Bridget stated in her application that she wants to be a school counselor "to make



sure each and every student has equal opportunities - whether it is in academics, social/emotional health, or college and career planning." Congratulations Bridget!!

We had several high quality candidates apply for our scholarship which made it difficult to choose! We are so happy to have such great people wanting to be a part of our profession!!

## Retiring?

We would love to keep in touch with you in the future!

Send your contact information to Sandy White at [slwhite\\_64429@yahoo.com](mailto:slwhite_64429@yahoo.com)

**Best of luck and congratulations to all the retirees!**

# Counselor of the Year Winners!

by Nicole Messick, Professional Recognition Co-Chair

At our Spring NWMSCA meeting, we were able to honor three recipients for our NW District Counselor of the Year. A big congratulations goes to Ben Hihath, from Bessie Ellison Elementary School for Elementary Counselor of the Year; Karrie Engel, from Benton High School, as the High School Counselor of the Year; and Nick Wray from South Nodaway School District, as our Multi Level Counselor of the Year. These award winners will have the opportunity to submit their application for the state counselor of the year, which will be awarded at the MSCA meeting in the Fall. Best of luck to you and thank you for all that you do!



K-12 Counselor: Nick Wray

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Secondary Counselor: Karrie Engel



Elementary Counselor: Ben Hihath



Be **involved**  
Be **successful**  
Be a **Bearcat**

**NORTHWEST**  
Missouri State University

nwmissouri.edu



# Recognition of 2017-2018 NWMSCA Governing Board

